

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

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**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.**  
**Note:** 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

b. ☒ Please apply the fee of \$770.00 submitted with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on February 27, 2004. A check in the amount of \$258.00 is enclosed to cover three independent claims presented in the Amendment Accompanying RCE.

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**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

**981361**

**SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name **Susanne M. Hopkins**

Registration No. **33,247 (atty/agent)**

Signature

Date **July 1, 2004**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

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